

night stopped at Lucknow due to non-availability of watch-hours and would have resulted in cancellation of flight for Patna causing avoidable inconvenience to passengers travelling to/from Patna.

(c) and (d) To avoid losses and inconvenience to the passengers due to non-operation of flights, rerouting/rescheduling is resorted to when it becomes impossible to operate the normal schedule due to operational constraints like inclement weather, watch-hour restrictions and other technical reasons. This is normal practice followed by the airlines under such circumstances.

Delay in Finalising Tender Bids for duty free shops

161. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government lost Rs. 200 crores due to the indecision of Airports Authority of India in finalising tender bids for duty free shops' as reported in the Indian Express, dated June 1, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been ordered to fix responsibility in this case;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of the enquiry; and

(e) the corrective steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Air Service to Doha (Qatar)

162. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines is likely to start a direct service from the Qatari Capital Doha to Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the other cities in India to be connected with Doha; and

(c) by when would the service likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.